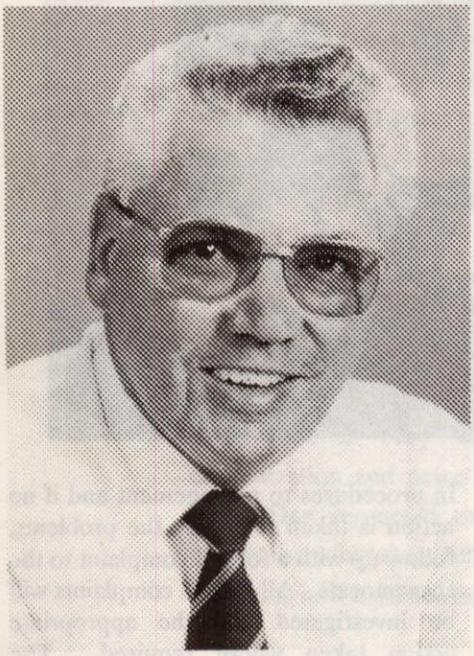
MINESAFE.

VOL. 1. No. 2.



G J Dodge
Deputy Director - Mining Engineering

CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

In this issue of MINESAFE, I want to take the opportunity of addressing those of you contemplating sitting for a Certificate of Competency as a supervisor or manager under the Mines Regulation Act.

There are two Boards of Examiners charged with assessing candidates and awarding certificates to those who are suitably qualified and experienced. Details may be obtained from Part (3) of the Regulations. Briefly, well qualified, senior representatives of the Department, industry and education sit on the Boards. Consequently, the Boards only meet a few times each year and a high standard of accuracy and completeness of applications is vital if the Boards are to function efficiently.

The onus is upon each applicant to:

* Complete the application form accurately and in detail;
* Provide a copy of your birth certificate, first aid certificate and where applicable, certificates of qualifications;
* Provide evidence, preferably on company letterhead, of experience gained in the mining industry in accordance with Part (3) of the regulations. The Board requires a clear statement or record of work experience including handling and use of explosives;
* Provide a character reference from an identifiable person.

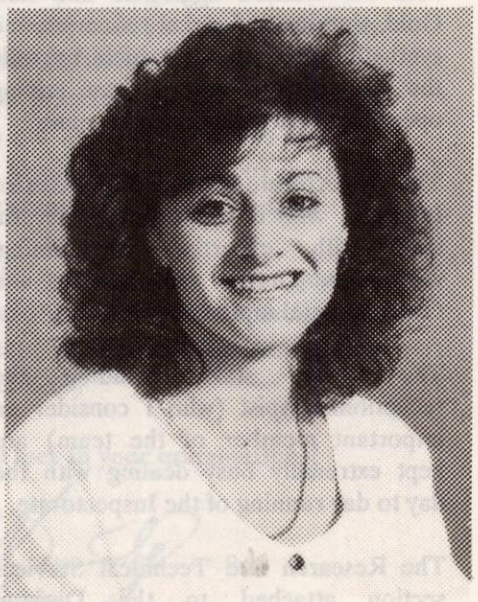
Failure to provide this detail not only makes it difficult for a Board to evaluate an application, but also invariably results in an application being held over for a subsequent meeting which could mean a delay of several months.

All certificate applicants must sit for an examination in mining law based on the Mines Regulation Act 1946-74 and Regulations. No examinations are easy to pass but those who are prepared to put in the work should have confidence. Candidates are not required to quote regulations verbatum, but only to set down, in their own words, the main points contained in that particular section or regulation.

When preparing for the examination, first study the structure of the Act and Regulations. You will note that the Act is divided into nine Divisions, each dealing with a particular subject. The Regulations are divided into six Divisions and further into 22 Parts each covering specific aspects of mining. Once you have a good understanding of the type of regulations contained in each Part you are half way there.

At the examination, candidates are given 10 minutes to read the paper before commencement. Read it carefully, including the directions. You will note that the Part Number and Title from which each question is taken is nominated. If you have studied the structure of the Regulations this will immediately assist you in knowing which of the Regulations the question is referring to, for example: if, under the heading "Part 16 - Shaft Sinking" you are asked a question about the permitted method of firing in a shaft, then you should confine your answer to the Regulation contained in that Part and not include general firing Regulations from Part 7.

During your preliminary reading of the examination paper, a number of questions will invariably "leap out" at you as you will recognise them and know the answer immediately. Begin with these questions. Your knowledge of the answers will increase your confidence and you will make effective use of the time available. It may also put you ahead of time. Pace yourself. There are 20 questions of equal marks. If you spend 12 minutes on a question you have given it 3 minutes too much and have to make up the time; leave it, and return later if time permits. (continued page 3)



Anna De Filippi
Secretary
Board of Examiners - Metalliferous

FOCUS

PERTH INSPECTORATE

Pictured
Standing L-R: M Knight, L Berryman, E Shenton, D Ahern, J Griffin, P Haynes
Seated L-R: D Bills, G Swarbrick, B Van der Hoek, D Austin, C Vetrone
Absent: M Brown

Originally all metalliferous inspection operations were centred in Kalgoorlie with outstations at Port Hedland, Cue and Leonora. Following the rapid expansion of the mining industry in the mid to late sixties, the Division Executive was transferred from Kalgoorlie to Perth and the State was split into the three inspectorates with regional offices located in Kalgoorlie, Port Hedland and Perth. In 1978 the Port Hedland office was relocated to Karratha.

Perth Inspectorate covers many diverse mining operations including bauxite, mineral sands, gold, tin, tantalite, base metals, lithium, silica sand, limestone rock for crushed aggregate and talc. Gold, alumina and nickel refineries, and synthetic rutile plants which upgrade the products of some of these mining operations, are categorised as mines.

This Inspectorate is headed by a Senior Inspector who is supported by several staff with expertise in mining, ventilation, noise, machinery and environmental matters.

The twelve staff including the receptionist/typist (who I consider an important member of the team) are kept extremely busy dealing with the day to day running of the Inspectorate.

The Research and Technical Services section attached to the Division provides a valuable back-up service to the Inspectorate and the expertise of these staff has often been called upon for assistance, advice and guidance. By using all the resources available we have been able to cope with the rapid expansion and change in the industry.

The primary functions of the metalliferous Inspectorates are to administer and enforce the requirements of the Mines Regulation Act, promote occupational health, safety and welfare in the work place and provide technical advice and assistance to Government and Industry when required. Another extremely important function performed is the investigation of the causes of serious and fatal accidents and serious incidents which could have caused serious injury. As a result of these investigations, measures may be able to be introduced to prevent a recurrence of a similar accident.

Periodically, physical inspections of minesites are undertaken by the various Inspectors and any defects noted are listed in the Mine Record Book kept at the mine for that purpose. Managers are required to rectify these defects at the earliest possible time. Those who choose not to (and these are rare) render themselves liable to closure, prosecution or both. Where deficiencies in work procedural matters are noted by the Inspector, consultations take place with management to ensure that in future correct procedures are adopted.

Employees are encouraged to report breaches of the Act and/or deficiencies in procedures to management and if no action is taken to rectify the problems, follow up with a formal complaint to the Inspectorate. All formal complaints will be investigated and the appropriate action taken where required. The names of those persons making formal complaints are not revealed.

Literally thousands of enquiries and complaints from the general public are handled on the telephone each year. The nature of these calls vary considerably and include complaints about excessive vibrations caused by blasting; complaints from wives and/or girl friends that their husbands/boy friends have been unfairly dismissed; and questions such as how do I obtain a mine worker's health certificate? what information is required when submitting a Notice of Intent? what driver's licence classification is required to drive a truck on a mine? will you supply details of an accident investigation? and so the list goes on.

Most enquiries and complaints can be dealt with immediately, however, those that cannot are followed up and the relevant information is relayed to the person either by telephone or letter.

B J D van der Hoek
SENIOR INSPECTOR OF MINES

A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

Research Officers spend a lot of time in the office but keep in touch with the actual work of the Inspectorate by making occasional site visits. Recently I spent a couple of days in the field and was able to take a first hand look at the Inspectorate at work.

The first trip I made was with Dan Ahern, a Noise and Vibration Officer, to a hard rock quarry North East of Perth.

We spent a busy day monitoring dust concentration and noise levels throughout the mine. Dan inspected each operation in the quarry including the drilling, loading, crushing, screening and train loading.

After a five hour period we collected the six dust samples. Dan made a few notes directed at improving health and safety standards, frequently referring to statutory guidelines. He then sat down with the Registered Manager and discussed these notes and other technical matters.

Throughout the day I noticed a great deal of communication between Dan and the staff, employees and contractors. Their conversations were an exchange of information and technical advice welcomed by both parties.

My second trip was to the South West and it was even busier than my first. I travelled with Alan Sheppard (Mining Engineer - Radiation) and we visited mineral sands operations.

Alan made the trip to collect dust samples for the physics department at Queensland University of Technology. On this occasion plant inspection was not Alan's primary reason for his visit but he did measure radiation levels at various places within each operation because Monazite is radioactive and radiation levels must be regularly monitored.

Alan and Dan are familiar figures on mine sites and I was impressed by the level of commitment and communication between the inspectors and everyone on site. Observing the Inspectorate at work was a valuable learning experience.

Jane Scanlon

Jane Scanlon
RESEARCH OFFICER

KALGOORLIE HOTLINE

The Division is pleased to announce the appointment of Jim Boucaut as Regional Mining Engineer at Kalgoorlie.

Jim who has been a District Engineer at Kalgoorlie for the past five years succeeds Ian Loxton who retired in October 1989. Jim has been with the Department for ten years and spent five years in Karratha before moving to Kalgoolie. He commenced duties in December 1989.

Congratulations!

(continued from page 1)

This latter advice is particularly relevant to those candidates who sit for the practical papers. Even though there are less questions it is essential that you allocate time to each in proportion to the marks available.

Should anyone have any queries, discuss them with your supervisor, an Inspector of Mines or give Anna a ring on 222 3269.

Good luck in your examinations!

G J Dodge
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IAN LOXTON

The Mines Department said a reluctant goodbye to Regional Mining Engineer, Ian Loxton at the end of October, 1989. The Kalgoorlie Inspectorate is now coming to terms with the fact that after 28 years "Locky" has hung up his hard hat.

Ian Loxton joined the Mines Department in 1961 and became the Senior Inspector at Kalgoorlie in 1972. He was appointed Regional Mining Engineer in 1983. Kalgoorlie is one of the largest Regional Inspectorates in the country (1.3 million sq km) and Ian has seen many changes over the years - not only in mining methods and technology but also a phenomenal growth in the number of working mines in the Inspectorate. There were 31 operating mines in the region in 1975 and there are now 167. Despite staff increases in recent years the work load is massive.

Ian's experience and knowledge will not be totally lost to the Goldfields, as he will be joining the Goldfields Occupational Health Consultancy and his decision to remain involved is welcome news to the mining industry.

Ian has earned the respect and gratitude of all involved in the industry and his major contribution to mining health and safety has been universally acknowledged.

We wish Ian and Betty all the best for the future.

EDITORIAL.

The Publication of MINESAFE has been well received by the Industry and we are very pleased by the response to the first issue. We look forward to receiving your continued support during 1990.

A few "typos" slipped through our net, although we understand Machinery Inspector, Brian Johnston felt that the rearranged spelling of his name to "Brain" finally recognised his superior cerebral standing in the Inspectorate.

We were also remiss in not acknowledging the hard work of Melanie Santiago and Diane Lavercombe who are responsible for the typing and distribution of MINESAFE.

In this issue we introduce "Nipper and Blue" and thank Mt Isa Mines for giving us permission to use the strip.

The Department Staff wish everyone in the industry a happy and safe New Year.

Catherine Stedman
Editor

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RON CLEASBY

This month we also have to say goodbye to Ron Cleasby who retired from the Drilling Branch in December, 1989.

After 26 years of service in field operations, Ron is looking forward to devoting more of his time to indulging his love for fishing.

Ron spent his youth in Kalgoorlie, and saw active service in Korea. He started work with the branch in 1963 as a Cable Tool Driller and joined the staff in 1969. He has worked all over Western Australia from Albany to the Ord and has been involved on every type of operation undertaken by the Branch.

The Branch will miss his experience and leadership qualities as well as his stories. Everyone in the Division wishes Ron well, and he retires knowing that he will be missed by everyone who had the opportunity to work with him.

SAFETY IN MINES

AN OPEN LETTER FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN UNDERGROUND MINING AND OPEN CUT GOLD MINING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

IN THE CLOSING DAYS OF 1989, TWO FURTHER DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED IN UNDERGROUND MINES, ENDING A FOUR MONTH INTERVAL FREE OF ANY FATALITY.

THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR TO 18.

THE GRIM REALITY OF THESE EVENTS BRINGS HOME THE FACT THAT ONLY A CONCERTED, CO-OPERATIVE AND IMMEDIATE COMMITMENT TO A PROFOUND IMPROVEMENT IN MINE OPERATING SAFETY IS ACCEPTABLE.

THE PROBLEMS WHICH NEED TO BE ADDRESSED WERE COVERED BY THE OCTOBER 1989 ISSUE OF MINESAFE. A COPY OF THE RELEVANT ARTICLE (FOCUS) IS ATTACHED.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT ALL PARTIES - COMPANIES, MANAGEMENT, UNIONS AND WORKERS - MUST BE PREPARED TO ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO SAFETY AND WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER ON THE COMMON GOAL OF ELIMINATING THE CURRENT SPATE OF TRAGIC DEATHS.

THE MINES DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE WITH ITS CURRENT STRONG CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE MINE SAFETY. HOWEVER, REGULATION WILL NEVER WORK UNLESS THE INDUSTRY AND ALL THOSE WHO WORK IN IT HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE. THE INSPECTORATE CAN NOT <u>COMPEL</u> THE ATTITUDE OF MIND REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE SAFETY PERFORMANCE.

I URGE YOU ALL TO ASSIST US IN OUR FUNDAMENTAL AIM, THE REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF ANY LEVEL OF DEATH AND SERIOUS INJURY.

DISCUSSIONS TO MAP OUT A DETAILED STRATEGY ON SAFETY ISSUES ARE BEING HELD AND I WILL KEEP YOU ALL INFORMED OF THE OUTCOME.

J M TORLACH
STATE MINING ENGINEER

JANUARY 1990

FOCUS

A succession of fatal accidents in Western Australian gold mines in the last four months has focussed public attention on the mining industry's safety record.

The Emu disaster on 13 June this year and five other fatal accidents since that date have emphasised the need for a greater commitment to safety from the gold mining industry, particularly in underground gold mines.

Recent events have shown what an unforgiving industry we work in. One mistake by a miner, operator, supervisor or manager can have very serious if not fatal consequences.

There is no doubt in my mind that the rapid increase in the number of gold mines has been a major contributing factor, not only because of the increased number of persons employed but also because of the relatively inexperienced management, supervision and workers in some operations. The same problem was experienced by iron ore and nickel producers when they were expanding rapidly in the 1970s.

It is vital that recent accident trends in gold mines be reversed, and very quickly.

Employers have a duty to provide competent staff. They have a duty to provide safe places of work. They have a duty to provide proper plant and equipment and they have a duty to provide a safe system of work.

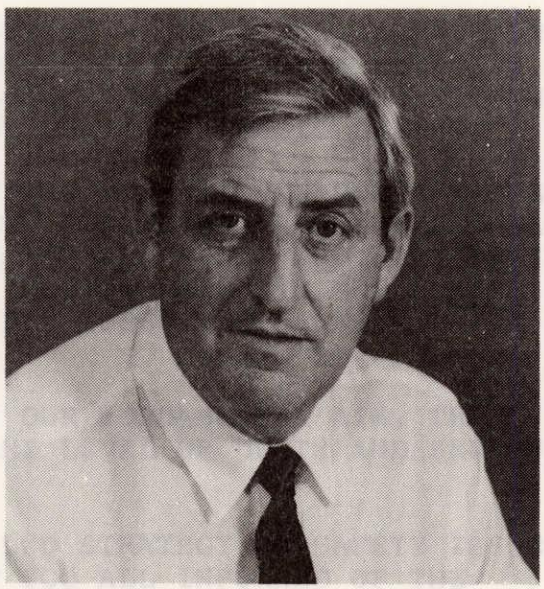
Regional Mining Engineers have expressed concern to me recently about a number of items which they feel are not being given sufficient attention by some mining companies:

- Induction and training of new employees
- Supervision, particularly underground
- Control and supervision of contractor's employees
- The condition of mobile equipment, particularly contractors' equipment
- Work practices, particularly underground.

It is all too easy to assume that concerns such as these apply only to other people's operations, but what is really required to achieve an overall improvement in safety performance is for each manager, supervisor and worker to critically appraise his or her own area of responsibility and make a commitment to removing all bad practices and changing poor attitudes. You may like to consider your own performance in the light of the following statements. How do you and your organisation measure up?

- Persons must be inducted and trained properly. This is fundamental to any safety programme. Too many new starters are being thrown in at the "deep end".
- Supervisors must not turn a "blind eye" to defective machinery or unsafe workplaces because of production pressures. If necessary the job must be stopped and things put right before it is allowed to re-start.
- The Registered Manager is responsible for the safety of contractor's employees as well as company employees. More attention is required and systems put in place to ensure that contractors' vehicles and equipment are properly maintained. Too often inspectors are having to put trucks off the road and it can only be concluded that, in these cases, production is being given priority over safety.
- In the year ended 30 June 1989, two persons were killed and 108 underground workers were injured by rockfalls. Their injuries included 22 fractures and 2 amputations, while two persons sustained multiple injuries. The general standard of barring down loose rock underground is simply not good enough. An underground manager was recently fined $1,000 for not ensuring work places were properly scaled. Don't expect sympathetic treatment if the inspector finds your workplaces in a similar condition.
- More than twelve months have passed since an underground worker was killed by falling down an ore or waste pass. However, this has been one of the most common types of fatal accident with nine deaths in the last ten years. Ore passes and other places where people can fall to their death must be properly guarded. If they are not, fix them now, before someone else learns this lesson the hard way.

It is essential that all the concerned parties - management, trades unions, employees and the inspectorate work together to make the mines safer and healthier in this State. The mining industry is committed to a zero incidence of injury but it will not just happen. Everyone has a responsibility to work towards this objective and make it a reality.



D Collie
Assistant Director
(Metalliferous)

Amended extract from MINESAFE VOL 1 No 1

AXTAT

The Accident Recording System, AXTAT developed and maintained by the Department of Mines, contains information on all lost time injuries since January 1987.

A lost time injury is an injury which results in the inability to work for at least one full day or shift any time after the day or shift on which the injury occurred.

A description of each injury is entered into the system along with all relevant dates and the number of days lost. Each injury is coded using the following categories:

- Occupation
- Nature of Injury
- Part of Body injured
- Location of Accident
- Type of Accident
- Activity at Time of Accident

The injury performance indicators used by the AXTAT system are:

Incidence
The number of lost time injuries per thousand employees.

Frequency
The number of lost time injuries per million hours worked.

Duration
The average number of work days lost per injury.

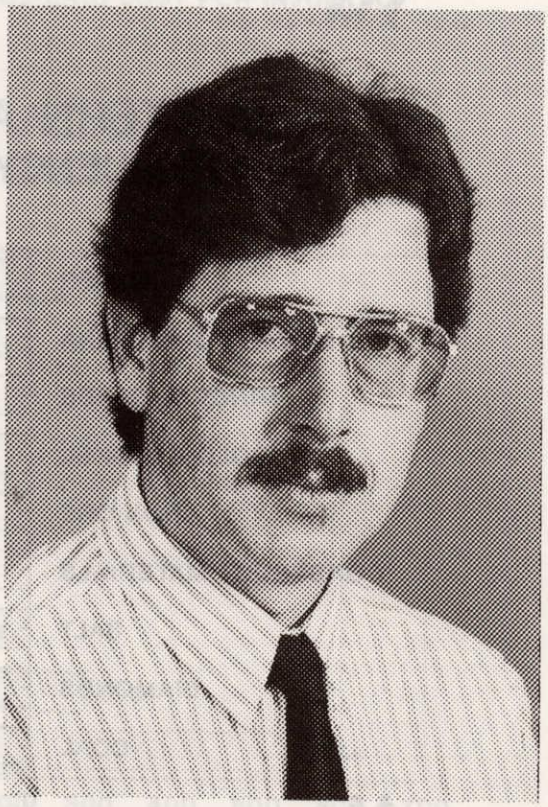
Injury Index
The number of work days lost per million hours worked.

REVIEW OF BACK INJURIES
There were 517 back injuries in the Western Australian mining industry during 1988/89 resulting in 6,627 days lost from work. This represents 21.9% of both the total injuries and the total days lost. Approximately 90% of these injuries were to the lower back.

The graphs overleaf give the injury performance indicators by mineral mined for the 1988/89 financial year. There is little difference between the incidence and frequency graphs. The coal industry stands out in both these graphs with an incidence of 95 injuries per thousand persons employed and a frequency of 57 injuries per million hours worked. The average incidence for metalliferous mines was 14 injuries per thousand persons employed and the average frequency was 6 injuries per million hours worked.

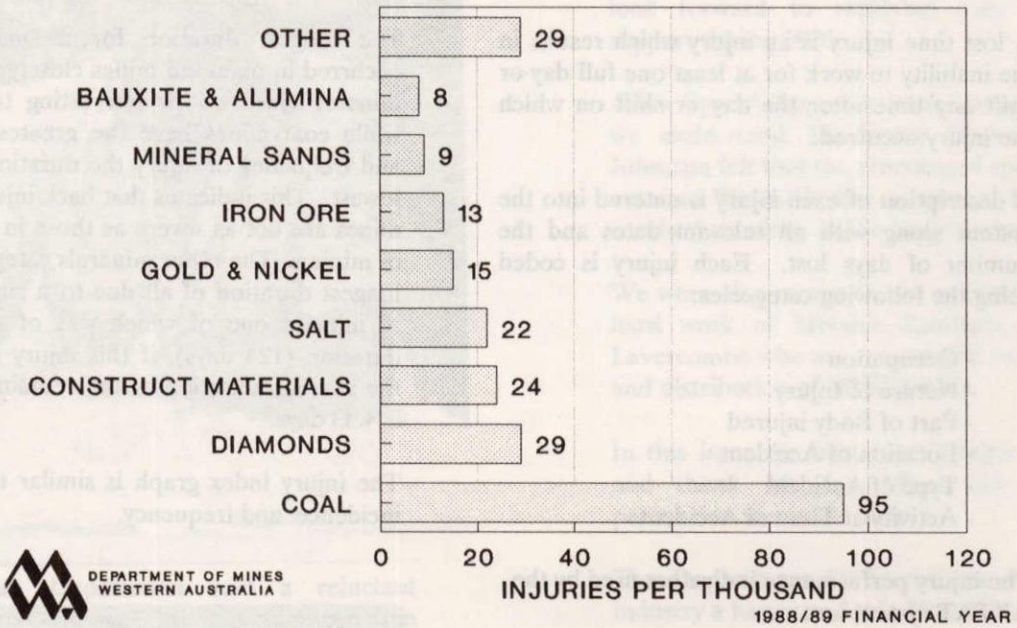
The longest duration for a single mineral occurred in diamond mines closely followed by mineral sands. It is interesting to note that while coal mines have the greatest incidence and frequency of injury the duration is second lowest. This indicates that back injuries in coal mines are not as severe as those in other types of mining. The other minerals category has the longest duration of all due to a small number of injuries one of which was of a very long duration (124 days), if this injury is extracted the average duration of the remaining injuries is 4.33 days.

The injury index graph is similar to those for incidence. and frequency.



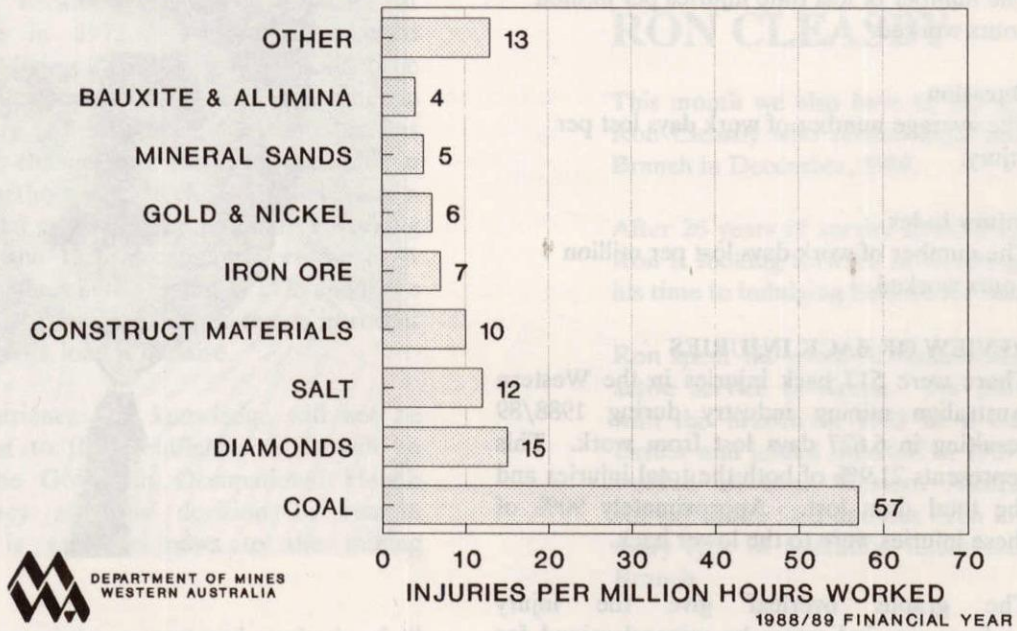
M Whiteley
Mining Engineer

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINES
INCIDENCE OF BACK INJURIES



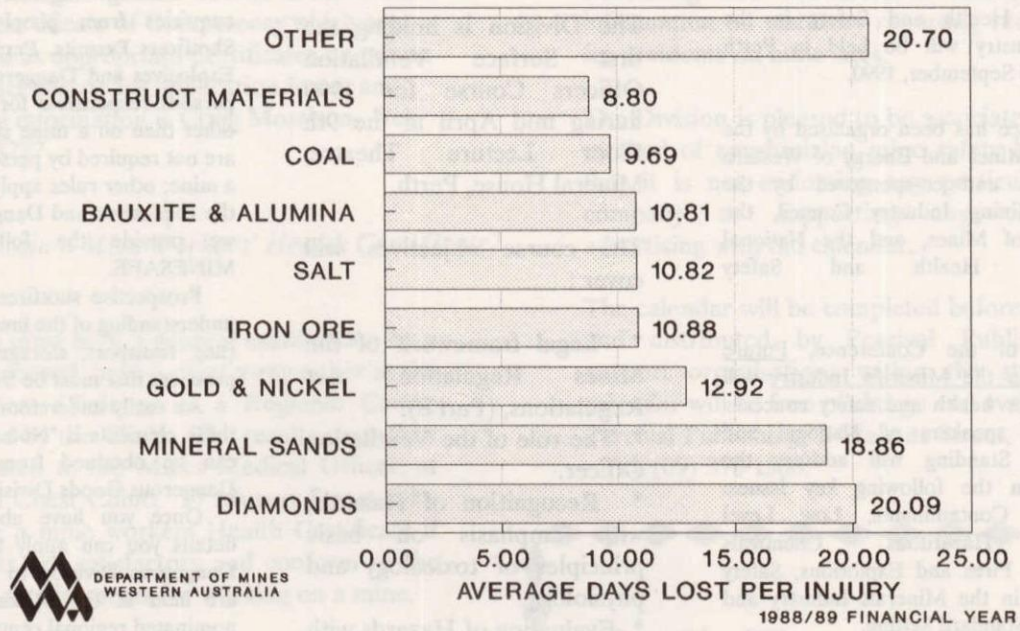
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINES
FREQUENCY OF BACK INJURIES



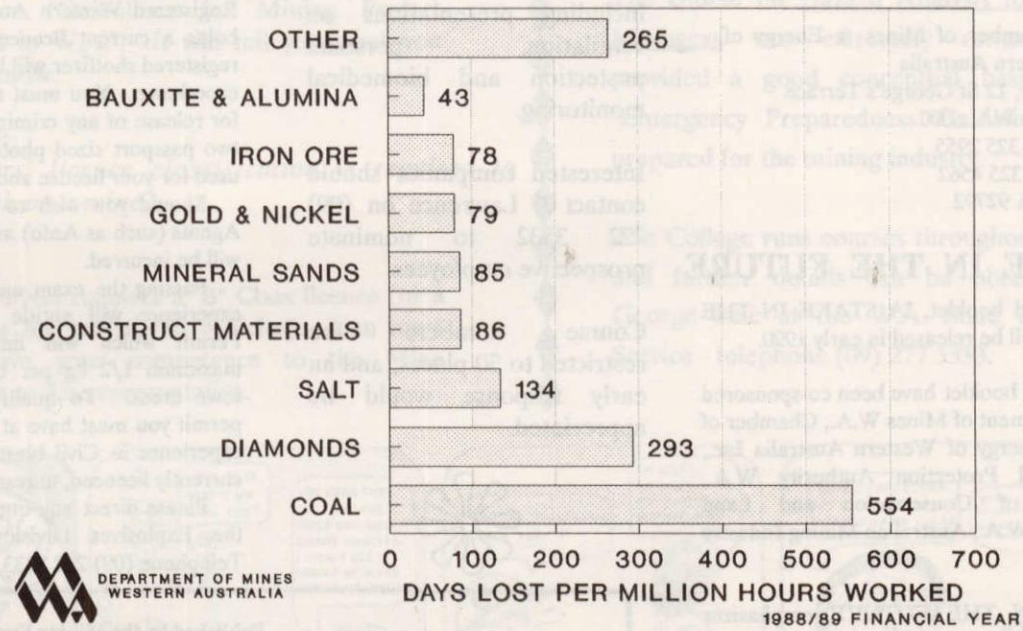
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINES
DURATION OF BACK INJURIES



DEPARTMENT OF MINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINES
INJURY INDEX FOR BACK INJURIES



DEPARTMENT OF MINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WHAT'S ON!

MINESAFE INTERNATIONAL 1990

An International Conference on Occupational Health and Safety in the Minerals Industry will be held in Perth between 10-14 September, 1990.

The Conference has been organised by the Chamber of Mines and Energy of Western Australia Inc and co-sponsored by the Australian Mining Industry Council, the Department of Mines, and the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission.

The theme of the Conference, Future Perspectives in the Minerals Industry will highlight major health and safety concerns and keynote speakers of National and International Standing will address the conference on the following key Issues: Atmospheric Contaminants, Low Level Radiation, Hazardous Chemicals Management, Fires and Explosions, Safety Management in the Minerals Industry and International Standard Setting.

Participation in this conference is strongly endorsed. It is a world first and of major importance and it is in the interests of everyone involved in the Mining Industry to be represented. Further information can be obtained from:

The Chamber of Mines & Energy of Western Australia
7th Floor, 12 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
Tel. (09) 325 2955
Fax (09) 325 4562
Telex AA 92792

A STAKE IN THE FUTURE

The video and booklet, "A STAKE IN THE FUTURE", will be released in early 1990.

The video and booklet have been co-sponsored by the Department of Mines W.A., Chamber of Mines and Energy of Western Australia Inc., Environmental Protection Authority W.A., Department of Conservation and Land Management W.A., Australian Mining Industry Council.

A STAKE IN THE FUTURE emphasizes environmental management as an integral part of mining operations. It explains why pre-planning is important to the success of any environmental programme, and gives practical advice for cost-effective rehabilitation.

For further details please contact Keith Lindbeck - 222 3437.

VENTILATION OFFICERS COURSE

The Division is holding the first Surface Ventilation Officers Course for 1990 during mid April at the 9th Floor Lecture Theatre, Mineral House, Perth.

The course objectives will cover :

* Legal framework of the Mines Regulation Act Regulations, (Part 8).
* The role of the Ventilation Officer.
* Recognition of Hazards, with emphasis on basic principles of toxicology and physiology.
* Evaluation of Hazards with emphasis on sampling, instrumentation, analytical methods, hygiene standards and occupational exposure limits.
* Control of Hazards, including presentations on ventilation, personal protection and biomedical monitoring.

Interested companies should contact J. Lawrence on (09) 222 3532 to nominate prospective employees.

Course numbers are restricted to 30 places, and an early response would be appreciated.

GUIDELINES FOR SHOTFIRERS PERMITS

The Mining Engineering Division receives enquiries from people wanting to obtain Shotfirers Permits. Permits are issued by the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Division to persons responsible for the use of explosives other than on a mine site. Shotfirers permits are not required by persons using explosives on a mine; other rules apply. In consultation with the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Division we provide the following guidelines in MINESAFE.

Prospective shotfirers (off mines) need an understanding of the laws relating to explosives (use, transport, storage, etc) and the actual practices that must be followed to blast safely.

An easily understood book setting out both these elements is "Notes for Shotfirers" which can be obtained from the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Division. (Cost $10.00).

Once you have absorbed the necessary details you can apply to the Explosives and Dangerous Division to sit the exam. Exams are held at the Mines Department and at nominated regional centres.

You are allowed one hour and forty minutes to complete 100 questions and an 80% pass mark is necessary. The exam fee is $99.00 and the fee for the licence is $11.00 (Total $110.00). (Fees are subject to change).

Before your licence is issued you must have at least one day's practical experience with a Registered Western Australian Shotfirer who holds a current licence. A letter from the registered shotfirer will be required as proof of experience. You must also sign a declaration for release of any criminal records and submit two passport sized photographs. One will be used for your licence and the other kept on file.

Should you wish to manufacture Blasting Agents (such as Anfo) an additional $22.00 fee will be incurred.

Passing the exam and submitting proof of experience will entitle you to a Restricted Permit which will limit you to firing a maximum 1/2 kg per blast in residential or town areas. To qualify for an unrestricted permit you must have at least 30 working days experience in Civil blasting operations with a currently licenced, unrestricted WA shotfirer.

Please direct any queries you may have to the Explosives Division Duty Inspector - Telephone (09) 222 3333.

MINESAFE
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MAIL BAG

QUESTION:
Does a person need a Crane Driver's Certificate to operate a crane on a mine?

ANSWER:
Yes. DOHSWA examines for and issues Crane Driver's Certificate of Competency which are recognised as appropriate Certificates on mines. The contact person for application forms and associated information is Craig Morrison. Tel: (09) 327 8777

QUESTION:
How do I obtain a Mine Workers' Health Certificate?

ANSWER:
First, you must have a general examination by a G.P. and second, have a chest x-ray either at the Perth Chest Clinic or at a Regional Centre authorized by the Clinic. The results must then be presented to the Mines Medical Officer, at the Perth Chest Clinic, 17 Murray Street, who will Issue a mine workers Health Certificate if the results are satisfactory and conform to the statutory requirements for working on a mine.

QUESTION:
What information is required when submitting a Notice of Intent?

ANSWER:
Obtain the Mining Engineering Division publication "Guidelines for Mining Project Approval in W.A.". It will tell you what you need to know.

QUESTION:
What drivers' licence classification is required to drive a truck on a mine?

ANSWER:
A truck driver requires a "B" Class licence (or a "C" Class for articulated vehicles). You must also prove your competence to the Mine Manager or his representative.

MAIL BAG

The Mining Engineering Division has received many queries about the Mine Safety Calendar, for the year 1990.

The calendar is being produced by Percival Publishing and the Division has contributed information on statutory reporting requirements for accidents on mine sites.

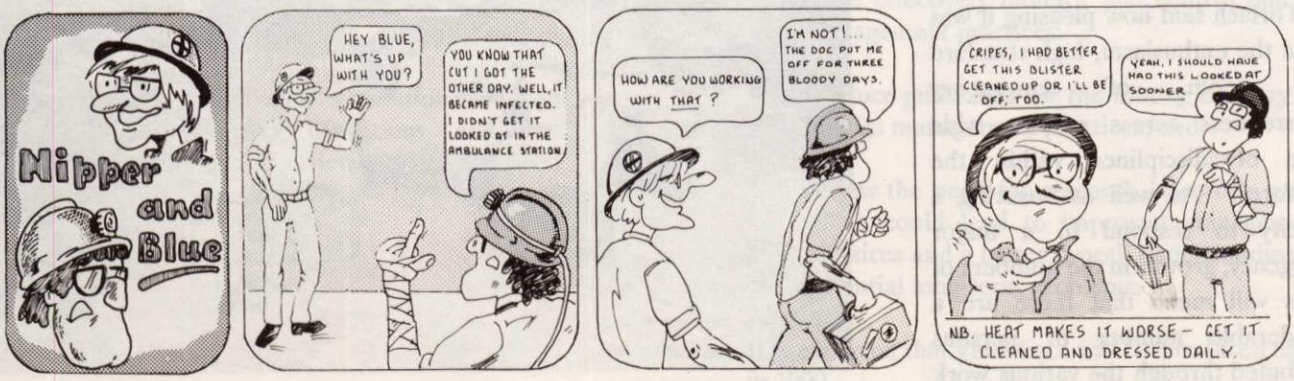
The Division is pleased to be associated with this method of emphasizing mine safety but advises that it is not endorsing any particular mining company or supporting any organisation advertising with the calendar.

The calendar will be completed before Christmas and distributed by Percival Publishing and support organisations within the state. The calendar will be free of charge and available from Percival Publishing, 2 Walcott Street, Mt Lawley - Tel. (09) 370 1500.

Research Officer, Jane Scanlon recently attended a course run by the Australian Counter Disaster College at Mt Macedon, Victoria.

The course on Hazard Analysis for Disaster Managers was extremely rewarding and provided a good conceptual basis for the "Emergency Preparedness Guidelines" being prepared for the mining industry.

The College runs courses throughout the year and further details can be obtained from George Sulc at the W.A. State Emergency Service - telephone (09) 277 5333.



Courtesy of Mt Isa

SURFACE MINES RESCUE AT COLLIE

Seven teams competed in the inaugural Coalfield Surface Rescue Competition on Sunday 22nd October, 1989.

Coalfields Surface rescue training began at The Griffin Coal Mining Company two years ago. This initiative complemented well established underground rescue training at Western Collieries Ltd and today the two companies work together to ensure a high standard of rescue training is maintained.

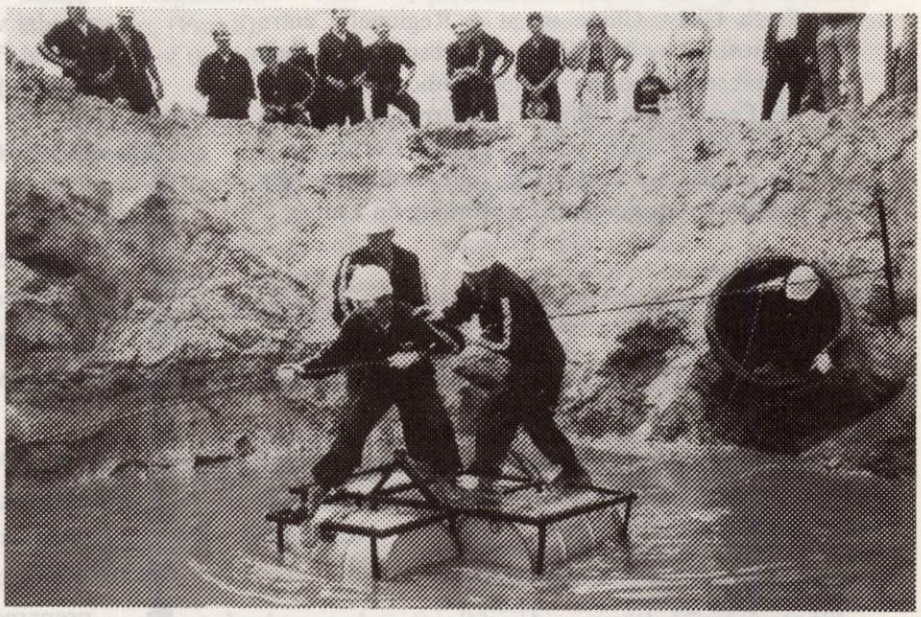
Ian Milroy (Griffin) co-ordinates surface rescue training for both Companies, while Lindsay Creighton (Western) is responsible for training underground rescue teams.

Teams were tested on their knowledge of firefighting, first-aid, theory, rescue from heights and general skills. Two enthusiastic teams went a step further and gave an impromptu exhibition of their sump swimming skills when their pontoons capsized during a difficult segment of the skills exercise.
It is greatly to their credit that only their clothing and not their zeal was dampened.

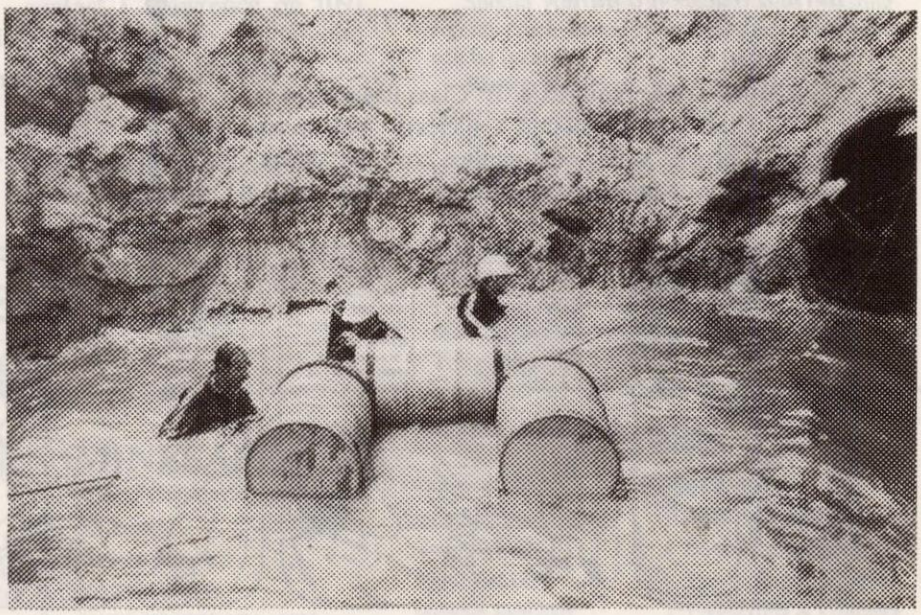
A consistent performance over the five sections made a Griffin team, captained by Neville Swindell, the proud custodians of the Mines Department Trophy which was presented by State Mining Engineer, Jim Torlach. Commenting later, Jim Torlach said how pleasing it was to see the enthusiasm, high standard and depth of emergency preparedness across such a wide range of disciplines within the workforce. As well as ensuring a capacity to respond to a major emergency, growth in the numbers of teams will mean that there are a considerable number of persons distributed through the various work places who are able to act quickly and effectively should a smaller scale incident or injury occur in their immediate workplace. Participation by other operations and organisations in rescue training in the Southwest will benefit the Mining Industry as a whole, and efforts to get more teams in training are to be commended.

In this competition Western Collieries Ltd fielded four teams - 2 from the open cut and 2 from the underground mines. Griffin Coal had two open cut teams competing and the State Energy Commission was represented by a team from the Muja Power Station. The Muja team which began training this year, took a most creditable third place in the competition, and the Western No. 3 Team, captained by Kim Addis, impressed everyone present by scoring 100% in the skills exercises.

More information on mine rescue training can be obtained from David Cameron, District Inspector, Mines Department, Collie: Telephone (097) 341 222.



Now you see them!



Now you don't!

State Mining Engineer J Torlach (far right) with the Griffin Coal Mining Company No. 6 Team.

RESULTS

Team	Total Points
Griffin No. 6	412.9
Western No. 3	394.6
S.E.C. No. 4	393.7
Griffin No. 2	391.2
Western No. 1	364.4
Western No. 5	348.2
Western No. 7	348.2

SURFACE MINES RESCUE COMPETITION PRESENTATIONS

Event	Presented by:	From:	Presented to:
Winners (Overall)	Jim Torlach	Mines Dept.	Griffin Coal Mining No. 6 Captain: Neville Swindell
2nd Place (Overall)	Steve Laidler	Drager	Western Collieries No. 3 Captain: Kim Addis
Skills Exercise	Jim Ponsonby	Bell Fires	Western Collieries No. 3 Captain: Kim Addis

REVIEW OF TAILINGS MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

In March 1988, the Department commissioned Australian Groundwater Consultants (now AG Consulting Group) to carry out a review of tailings management practices in Western Australia.

The review was based upon a questionnaire and site visits to selected operations and the Consultants report on the review has recently been completed.

The review will enable the Department to:

* more effectively monitor and control tailings management practices;
* produce guidelines for the mining industry on tailings management practices; and
* review the need for research in certain areas which could lead to improved management practices and a better overall understanding of potential long-term problems.

It is expected that guidelines will be produced early in 1990.

ACCIDENT BRIEF

During a surface rehabilitation operation on a minesite a quarry truck came into contact with 3.3 kv overhead power lines. On instruction from the supervisor, the operator remained in the cabin while the power was disconnected because the truck came to a standstill straddling the wires. Approximately 12 minutes after contact, the front left tyre exploded.

The Department of Mines

Comments and Recommendations

The operator received minor injuries from flying glass. The spotter was shocked but uninjured. Fortunately, others who arrived on the scene were ordered away by a quick thinking supervisor and no further injuries resulted from the explosion. Pieces of rubber and tin components were found 40 metres away.

The potential danger of contact with live wires must be constantly re-inforced. Mobile equipment operators must be issued with detailed, written instructions on action required in the event of equipment/power line contact.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1) **Coal Industry Tribunal Amendment Bill**
Status: Draft Bill being prepared introduction to Parliament Autumn Session 1991.

2) **Mines Regulation Amendment Bill**
(To incorporate Parts III and IV of OHSW Act 1984)
Status: Draft Bill before Parliament.

3) **New Coal Mining Act (1991)**
(To replace the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1946-1976).
(Drafting proceeding incorporating OHSW Act 1984 Parts III and IV)
Status: Final review process ready to commence.

LEGISLATION

During 1989 the following amendments were made to the Mines Regulation Act 1946-74; and the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1946-76.

1) **GOVERNMENT GAZETTE (No. 40) 28th April, 1989**

Regulation	Subject
Reg. 6.9	- Operations & Drivers requirements
Reg. 20.7	- Locomotive Drivers
Reg. 20.9	- Medical Examinations

2) **GOVERNMENT GAZETTE (No. 19) 24th February, 1989**

Regulation	Subject
Reg. 6.1	- Interpretation
Reg. 6.9	- Certificates of Competency
Reg. 6.12 and 6.13 inserted	- Classified Machinery
Reg. 6(A)(1)	- Certificates - Scaffolding Rigging

3) **CMRA**

Section 41D(A) inserted	- Certificates of Competency

PUBLICATIONS

1st Floor Counter, Mining Registration Division.
Tel: (09) 222 3410.

Please note: This list refers to mining related activity. Other Publications available on request.

1) Mining Act 1978-87 and Regulations

Soft Cover	= $10.00
Bound & Interleaved	= $30.00

2) Mines Regulation Act 1946-74 and Regulations (includes amendments) = $10.00

3) Codes of signals = $2.00
4) Coal Mines Regulation Act = $3.00
5) Mining Development Act = $0.20
6) Mine Workers Relief Act = $0.75
7) Code of Practice on Radiation Protection in the mining industry and processing of mineral sands (1982) = $1.70
8) Report of Committee of Enquiry = $2.00
9) Report of Collie Coalfield = $3.00
10) Bill 2/89 (Mining Act) = $0.90